

THE
RISING
OF 1 THE
SHIELD
HERO

THE
MANGA
COMPANION

Aiya Kyu

Original Story by
Aneko Yusagi

Character Design by
Minami Seira

ONE PEACE BOOKS

CHAPTER 1 A ROYAL SUMMONS

HE WILL
SAVE THE
WORLD FROM
DESTRUCTION...

HE IS ONE
OF THE FOUR
LEGENDARY
HEROES....

HE IS THE
SHIELD
HERO!

I'VE BEEN
WAITING FOR
YOU TO SHOW
YOUR TRUE
COLORS

CLATTER

MURMUR

DEMON

!!

MURMUR
MURMUR

I'VE KNOWN
SINCE I
FIRST LAID
EYES ON
YOU...

WHAT?!

THE
RISING
OF THE
SHIELD
HERO

THE
MANGA
COMPANION

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Original Story by
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THAT YOU
WERE UP TO
SOMETHING...



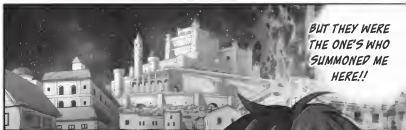
GRIT

WHAT ARE THEY
ACCUSING ME
OF?

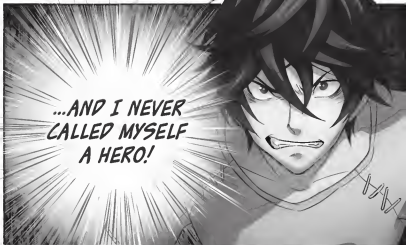


THEY NEVER
BELIEVED IN
ME...

EVERY LAST
ONE OF
THEM...



BUT THEY WERE
THE ONE'S WHO
SUMMONED ME
HERE!!



...AND I NEVER
CALLED MYSELF
A HERO!



LIBRARY

I DON'T
HAVE MUCH
MONEY
LEFT THIS
MONTH...

**I'M JUST
AN OTAKU
COLLEGE
STUDENT!**

GOOD
THING THE
LIBRARY IS
FREE.

...A
BOOK?

四聖武器書
THE RECORDS OF THE
FOUR HOLY WEAPONS

OUCH!

I GUESS
I'LL HAVE
TO HANG
OUT HERE
FOR A
WHILE...

SLAM!

WHAT
THE
HELL?

OUCH...

FOUR HOLY
WEAPONS?

四聖武器

THE
RECORDS OF THE...

THE RECORDS OF THE FOUR
HOLY WEAPONS.

SO IT
STARTS OFF
TALKING
ABOUT THIS
WORLD...

FLIP /10
フ

LET'S
SEE
HERE...

FLIP /10
フ

THIS BOOK
SURE DOES
LOOK OLD! IS
IT SOME KIND
OF FANTASY?

THE FOUR SUMMONED
HEROES WILL EACH
POSSESS A WEAPON...
SWORD, SPEAR, BOW,
AND SHIELD...

IT IS WRITTEN... WHEN THE
WORLD IS ON THE BRINK
OF DISASTER, HEROES WILL
BE SUMMONED FROM
ANOTHER WORLD...

THIS SURE IS
A CLICHÉ...

GEEZ...



FLIP



WH...

WE...

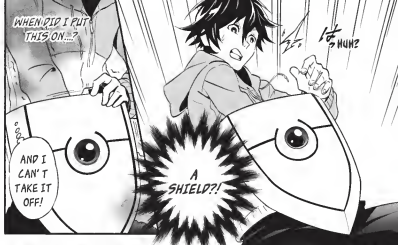
WE DID
IT!

SUCCESS!

WHERE
AM I?!

DUDUM!

OUCH!



WHAT ARE
THESE
WEAPONS?

IT'S LIKE
THE MIDDLE
AGES... OR
EVEN A BIT
LIKE A GAME...

THIS ISN'T
WHERE I
WAS!

IT COULDN'T BE...

HEY, COME
ON NOW...

PLEASE
SAVE OUR
WORLD!

WELCOME,
FOUR
HEROES.

YES!



BUT TIME
IS OF THE
ESSENCE!

I UNDER-
STAND THAT
THIS MUST
ALL COME AS
A SHOCK...



HUH?

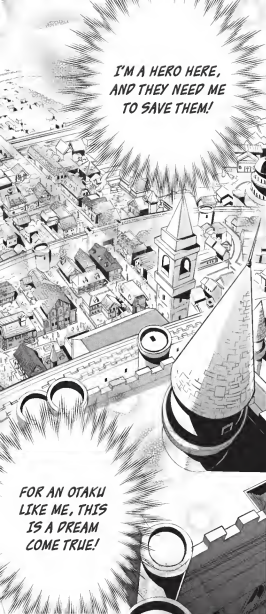
OUR COUNTRY,
MELROMARC, IS
IN THE MIDDLE OF
A CRISIS!

A RIFT HAS OPENED
FROM ANOTHER
DIMENSION, AND
MONSTERS HAVE
COME CRAWLING
INTO OUR WORLD IN
GREAT WAVES.

THE LONGER
HE TALKS,
THE MORE
FAMILIAR...

BUT THE DRAG-
ON HOURGLASS
HAS ALREADY
BEGUN TO
INDICATE THE
ARRIVAL OF
THE NEXT...

WHEN THE FIRST
WAVE CAME,
THE KINGDOM'S
KNIGHTS AND
ADVENTURERS
WERE ABLE TO
HOLD THEIR OWN...



**I'M A HERO HERE,
AND THEY NEED ME
TO SAVE THEM!**

**THIS IS JUST
LIKE THE BOOK
I WAS JUST
READING!**



**AS FAR AS
FANTASIES
GO, IT'S
A LITTLE
ROYAL...**

**BUT WHY DO
I FEEL SO...
HAPPY?**

**FOR AN OTAKU
LIKE ME, THIS
IS A DREAM
COME TRUE!**





THIS MUST BE
THAT BOOK... AM
I INSIDE IT?



SWORD, BOW,
AND SPEAR...
AND THEY
ALL LOOK
JAPANESE...

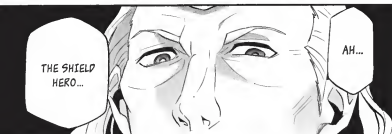


HUH?

HEY!

WHAT
ABOUT
ME?!

YES...
REN AND
ITSUKI AND
MOTOYASU...



THE SHIELD
HERO...

AH...



NAOFUMI
IWATANI...

I'M 20 YEARS
OLD AND A
UNIVERSITY
STUDENT...

WHAT'S
YOUR
NAME?



?
WHAT, THE...?



WOOSH!

NAOFUMI IWATANI : SHIELD HERO LV 1

EQUIPMENT: SMALL SHIELD
(LEGENDARY WEAPON)
OTHER-WORLD CLOTHES



ATTACK

STATUS EFFECTS

DEFENSE

AGILITY

ITEMS

SKILLS

MAGIC

HELP

WHA!?

HP

MP

A GAME?

YOU SHOULD ALL
HAVE LEGENDARY
WEAPONS THAT YOU
CAN EQUIP TO FIGHT
IN THE WAVES OF
DESTRUCTION...
DO YOU KNOW HOW
TO USE YOUR
STATUS
MAGIC?

WOAH...
THIS IS
LIKE A REAL
GAME!

SHIELD
HERO LV 1?

THIS
IS MY
STATUS?



A VIRTUAL
REALITY
MMO.

VR...?
WHAT'S
THAT?

I'M PRETTY
SURE I'VE
PLAYED
ONE ABOUT
THIS PLACE
BEFORE.



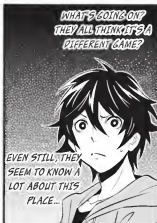
DON'T YOU
MEAN A
VRMMO?



WHAT ARE YOU
TWO TALKING
ABOUT? THIS
IS OBVIOUSLY
A CONSUMER
GAME!

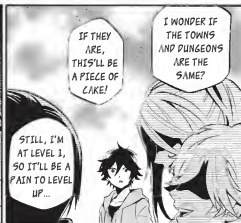
OH, YOU
MEAN
EMERALD
ONLINE?

THE MAP I
SAW WAS
JUST LIKE
THAT ONE!



*WHAT'S GOING ON?
THEY ALL THINK IT'S A
DIFFERENT GAME?*

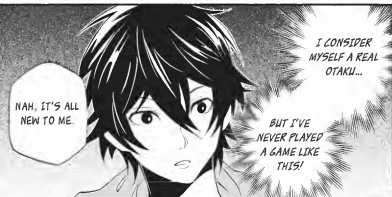
EVEN STILL, THEY
SEEM TO KNOW A
LOT ABOUT THIS
PLACE...

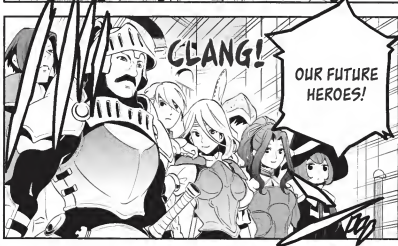


IF THEY
ARE,
THIS'LL BE
A PIECE OF
CAKE!

I WONDER IF
THE TOWNS
AND DUNGEONS
ARE THE
SAME?

STILL, I'M
AT LEVEL 1,
SO IT'LL BE A
PAIN TO LEVEL
UP...





ALREADY
DECIDED WHO
THEY WISH
TO TRAVEL
WITH...

THESE
PEOPLE
HAVE...

BOOM!

NOW THEN,
CHOOSE YOUR
HERO!

IT HAS
BEEN
SETTLED.

VERY
WELL.

I GUESS WE JUST
GOT HERE, AND
DON'T KNOW VERY
MUCH ABOUT THE
PLACE...

SO IT ONLY MAKES
SENSE THAT THEY
WOULD GET TO PICK...

WHAT?

THEY GET TO
PICK?!

REN 5
PEOPLE



ITSUKI 3
PEOPLE



MOTOYASU
4 PEOPLE



HUH?

0 PEOPLE.







WHAT?!

AT LEAST
THAT'S WHAT
IT WAS LIKE
IN THE GAME
I PLAYED.



IT'S NOT
THE BEST
CLASS...

SHIELDERS,
I MEAN.



WELL YOU
KNOW...



AND YOU KNOW
THAT A SHIELD
ISN'T REALLY
A WEAPON
ANYWAY...

THEY HAVE A
HIGH DEFENSE
THAT MAKES
THEM GOOD IN
THE BEGINNING...

BUT ONCE
EVERYONE'S
LEVELS START
GOING UP, THE
SHIELD STOPS
BEING USEFUL.



COULD IT BE?
THAT WEIRD
FEELING I HAD...

GRIP...!!

REALLY?



IT'S
TRUE!
HE'S
RIGHT...

THE GAME
I PLAYED
WAS JUST
LIKE THAT.



IT'S NOT
REALLY
SUITED FOR
A HERO...



DO THEY
HATE THE
SHIELD?!

DO THEY
HATE ME?



I SUPPOSE...

ト
TAP



FWIP

I WILL.



HUH...



...BUT EVEN
IF THEY DO...

WHAT DO THEY
EXPECT ME TO DO
ALL BY MYSELF?!

IS THERE
NO ONE WHO
WOULD TRAVEL
WITH THE
SHIELD HERO?



TADA!

DOESN'T
YOUR HEART
JUST
BLEED?

...TO THINK OF
HIM OUT THERE
ALL ALONE?!

SMILE

NICE TO
MEET YOU,
HERO!

I'M MYNE
SUPHIA.



YUP!

...YOU
SURE?



NICE
TO...

UM...



THEN WE SHALL
FURNISH YOU
WITH YOUR
MONTHLY
ALLOWANCE.

IS THAT
IT?



y...
YES!

OKAY!

USE THE
MONEY TO
RECRUIT
MORE PARTY
MEMBERS!

THE SHIELD
HERO WILL
RECEIVE
MORE THAN
THE OTHERS
THIS TIME!



NOW THEN
HEROES...

BE OFF
ON YOUR
JOURNEY!

お
CLINK!

800 PIECES
OF SILVER...

AWESOME!

LUCKY US!

IF WE HAVE
THAT MUCH,
WE CAN GET
STARTED WITH
SOME GOOD
EQUIPMENT!

BUT I DON'T
HAVE ANY IDEA
HOW MUCH THIS
IS WORTH HERE.

I GUESS I
GOT MORE
THAN THE
OTHERS...

I'LL USE THE
MONEY TO PULL
AHEAD IN THE
BEGINNING...

GREAT...

AND MAKE
YOU ALL
REGRET NOT
CHOOSING TO
TRAVEL WITH
ME!

I'LL
SHOW
YOU ALL!



THEY ARE ALL
MADE FROM
DIFFERENT
MATERIALS,
WHICH AFFECTS
THE PRICE....

IF YOU DON'T
HAVE A PARTICULAR
WEAPON
YOU'RE GOOD
WITH, WHY NOT
START WITH A
SWORD?

HERE ARE
SOME
WEAPONS!

CLATTER

WE CAN
PROBABLY
AFFORD TO
SPEND UP TO
250 PIECES OF
SILVER...

I... UH...

WHAT'S
YOUR
BUDGET
LOOK LIKE?

HUH?

CLANG!

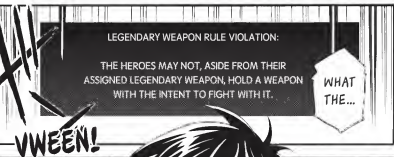
HOW
ABOUT
THIS
ONE?!

IS THIS
HOW YOU
HOLD IT?

BETTER KEEP
IT TO THAT,
SINCE WE
HAVE OTHER
STUFF TO
GET TOO.

YEAH...
GOOD
IDEA.

ALRIGHT
THEN...





ALL I
GOT WAS
ARMOR...

とほ
HUFF

とほ
HUFF



NOW I GET
WHY NO ONE
WANTED TO
COME WITH THE
SHIELD HERO...



AND HE GAVE
ME SOME
CLOTHES...

HE WAS
A PRETTY
NICE GUY.

I GUESS I
COULDN'T
GET ANY
WEAPONS...

BUT THAT
GUY GAVE
ME THIS
CHAINMAIL
FOR FREE.



HOW THE HELL AM
I SUPPOSED TO
FIGHT WITHOUT A
WEAPON?!



OH SHIELD
HERO...

WELL, I DON'T
KNOW WHAT'S
GOOD AND
WHAT'S NOT...

AND BESIDES,
I COULDN'T
BUY ANY
WEAPONS FOR
MYSELF...

YOU GOT ALL
THIS FOR ME?!



MY
MONEY...

THOUGH
MAYBE WE
DID USE
TOO MUCH...

CLINK

I'LL FIGHT
FOR YOU!

YEAH!

WE BETTER
START LEVELING
UP!



THIS GIRL IS A GREAT PARTY MEMBER!

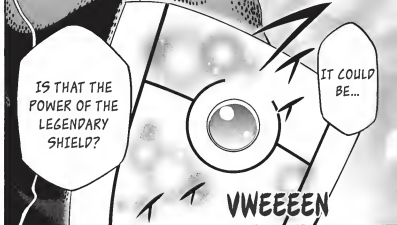


AN ORANGE BALLOON
HAS APPEARED!

BOOM!









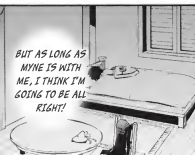






THANK YOU
SO MUCH FOR
EVERYTHING!





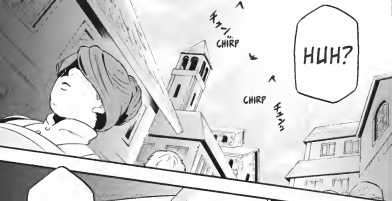


NOW MY REAL
ADVENTURE IN
ANOTHER WORLD
IS STARTING! IT'S
LIKE A DREAM!

す す
— —
SNORE SNORE

HEH HEH...
THAT SHIELD
HERO...

WHAT A
SUCKER...



HUH?

CHIRP

CHIRP

IT'S
GONE!



EVERYTHING
I HAD...

ALL THE
MONEY...

AND MY
CHAINMAIL!



COULD I
HAVE BEEN
ROBBED...?

BAM
BAM
BAM

NO, I...

I'M THE ONE
WHOSE BEEN
ROBBED
HERE!

AH!

HEY!

SHIELD
HERO!

WE ARE
ARRESTING
YOU ON THE
ACCUSATION
OF RAPE!

BAM
BAM
BAM

WILL
SOMEONE
LISTEN TO
ME?!

WHAT?



CHAPTER2 FRAMED



...THIS...



I KNEW YOU'D
SHOW YOUR
TRUE COLORS!

DEMON!



BUT I...



I KNEW IT
FROM THE
MOMENT I
LAID EYES ON
YOU...

THAT YOU
WERE UP TO
SOMETHING!





WHAT
DO
YOU...



HEY,
THAT
CHAIN-
MAIL...

WHERE
DID
YOU...



I WON'T LET
YOU PRETEND
THAT YOU DON'T
REMEMBER IT!



THIS?
MYNE GAVE IT TO
ME! I RAN INTO
HER AT THE BAR
AND...



HE... HE
PUSHED ME
DOWN ONTO
THE BED AND
HE...

SOBB



AND
THEN...
THE SHIELD
HERO WAS
DRUNK AND HE...
CAME INTO MY
ROOM AND...

WHAT?!

...

MYNE...

SOB

I
SCREAMED...

WHAT
IS SHE
SAYING?

AND
THEN MR.
MOTOYASU
CAME AND...

STILL... WHO'D
THINK YOU
WOULD STOOP
THIS LOW?

SOMEONE...
EXPLAIN TO
THEM...

YEAH...

YOU OBVIOUSLY
THINK YOU ARE
ABOVE THE
LAW.

WHAT?

WE DIDN'T
THINK YOU
WERE THIS
KIND OF MAN...



WHY IS THIS
HAPPENING TO
ME?!



**SHE
FRAMED
ME!**





GUESS YOU'D
PLANNED THIS
THE WHOLE
TIME.

YOU'D ONLY
CALLED ME
"HERO," BUT
HERE YOU ARE
CALLING HIM
"MOTOYASU"...

NOW
I GET
IT...



YOU FRAMED ME
TO GET YOUR
HANDS ON MY
EQUIPMENT
AND MONEY!

DON'T
PLAY
DUMB!

CLASH!!



WHAT
ARE YOU
BLATHERING
ON ABOUT?



WHERE WOULD
YOU EVEN GET AN
IDEA LIKE THAT?
WHERE ARE YOU
EVEN FROM?

REALLY...
IT'S HARD
TO FEEL
SYMPATHY
FOR HIM...

YOU THINK THAT
MOTOYASU
PLANNED TO
SNEAK AROUND
AND STEAL YOUR
STUFF?



SIGH...

STOP
ALL
THIS.



STAY
CLEAR,
MYNE.

OKAY.

WHAT ARE
THEY?

DEEP IN THE PIT
OF MY STOMACH...

I FEEL
DARK, BLACK
HATRED... IT'S
BOILING...

WHO WOULD
BELIEVE
WHAT YOU
HAVE TO
SAY?!

YOU'RE A
RAPIST!

A black and white manga panel showing three characters. On the left, a woman with long blonde hair and a dark top with a white collar looks towards the center. In the center, a man with dark spiky hair is seen from the back, wearing a white shield-shaped emblem on his dark shirt. On the right, a man with dark hair and a white shirt looks towards the center. The background is a cloudy sky.

SO THEY THOUGHT
THEY'D KICK MY LEGS
OUT FROM UNDER ME?
IF IT WOULD PROFIT
THEM, WHY NOT?

EVERYONE
KNEW THAT
I COULDN'T
FIGHT BACK,
BECAUSE I'M
THE SHIELD...

A black and white manga panel with a dark, smoky, and cloudy background. The text is centered in a large, bold, sans-serif font.

**THEY'RE
DIRTY.**

A black and white manga panel showing a man in a suit sitting on a throne. The throne is ornate and has a crown on top. The man is looking down. In the background, there are stone walls and a small figure of a man in a suit standing to the left.

THEY CALLED ME
HERE AND FORCED
ME TO BE THE
SHIELD HERO... IT
WAS ALL THEM...

NONE OF THEM
HAD EVER
BELIEVED IN
ME.

A black and white manga panel showing a close-up of a man's face. He has dark hair and is looking down with a slight smile. The background is dark and blurry.

HAVE TO PROTECT
PEOPLE LIKE
THIS?

WHY DO I...



IF I'VE PISSED
YOU OFF SO BAD,
WHY NOT SEND
ME HOME?!

FINE...

**THIS
PLACE
CAN
ROT IN
HELL!**

WHY DO I HAVE TO
SPEND MY TIME IN
ANOTHER WORLD
LIKE THIS?

I DON'T
CARE.



WE CAN ONLY
CALL FOR NEW
HEROES ONCE THE
ORIGINAL FOUR
HAVE DIED.

THAT'S
WHAT THE
RESEARCHERS
SAY.

SIGH...

WELL I
WOULD LOVE
TO GET RID
OF YOU...

THERE IS
NOTHING WE
CAN DO UNTIL
THE END OF
THE WAVES



HEH...

THAT'S
FUNNY.



WHAT?



AND YOU
CAN'T KILL
ME AND
STILL SAVE
THE WORLD!



GUESS IF YOU
WANT TO GET ME
OUT OF HERE...

YOU'LL ALL
HAVE TO
COME WITH
ME!

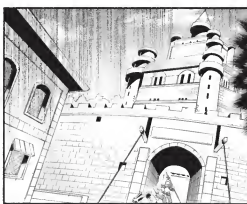




BUT YOUR
CRIMES WILL
SOON BE WELL
KNOWN TO
THE PUBLIC.



AS YOU ARE
OUR ONLY
HOPE AGAINST
THE WAVES,
WE WILL NOT
PUNISH YOU
FURTHER...



THAT WILL BE YOUR
PUNISHMENT!



HEY YOU!

SHIELD-BOY!



HUH?



AT LEAST
THEY CAN'T
HURT ME,
THANKS TO
THE SHIELD...



THE JERK...
I REALLY
WANTED
TO PUNCH
HIM...
THIS PLACE
NEEDS TO
CONTROL ITS
SOLDIERS
BETTER!

TRUDGE

TRUDGE





BESIDES, IT
LOOKS LIKE
THEY ALREADY
ROUGHED YOU UP.



NOT
GONNA
HIT ME?

YOU'RE
NOT
WORTH
IT.



HEY,
THAT'S
THE WAY
WHERE DO OUT OF
YOU THINK TOWN!
YOU'RE
GOING?

WHATEVER.



I SAID YOU
SHOULD WAIT!

OUCH!



GEEZ...



CALL IT A
PRESENT.



WHAT
THE
HELL?



YOU CAN'T
GO WALKING
AROUND IN YOUR
UNDERCLOTHES...

CLOTHES?



I'LL BRING
YOU YOUR
MONEY.



FINE.



I'M JUST
CLEARING
OUT STOCK...
PROBABLY 9
PIECES OF
SILVER OR
50.



WHAT
DO YOU
WANT FOR
THEM?







THE MEDICINAL HERB HAS
UNLOCKED THE LEAF SHIELD.

MEDICINAL
HERB?





HUH?

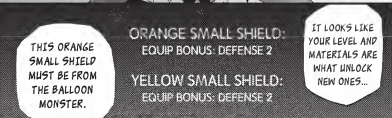


WHAT
WAS IT
THAT WAS
UNLOCKED?



I KNOW THAT
YOU HAVE TO
LEVEL UP YOUR
LEGENDARY
WEAPON...

THIS WHOLE
SKILL TREE IS
FOR THE SMALL
SHIELD?

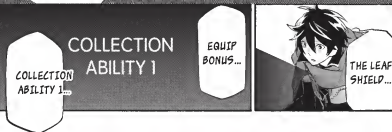


THIS ORANGE
SMALL SHIELD
MUST BE FROM
THE BALLOON
MONSTER.

ORANGE SMALL SHIELD:
EQUIP BONUS: DEFENSE 2

YELLOW SMALL SHIELD:
EQUIP BONUS: DEFENSE 2

IT LOOKS LIKE
YOUR LEVEL AND
MATERIALS ARE
WHAT UNLOCK
NEW ONES...

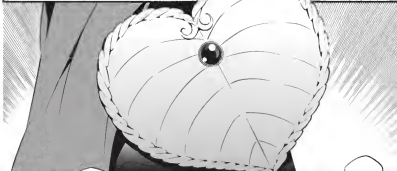


COLLECTION
ABILITY 1...

COLLECTION
ABILITY 1

EQUIP
BONUS...

THE LEAF
SHIELD...







SILENCE

THIS
SUCKS...



THE CHEAPEST FOOD
DOESN'T TASTE LIKE
ANYTHING.



WANT US TO
KEEP YOU
COMPANY?

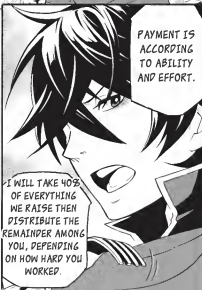
OOOH,
LOOK AT
THAT
SHIELD!

AND THE LITTLE
HERO HERE IS
EATING ALL
ALONE!



YOU'LL BUY
YOUR OWN
EQUIPMENT.

WHAT?!
WHAT
ARE YOU
SAYING?!



PAYMENT IS
ACCORDING
TO ABILITY
AND EFFORT.

I WILL TAKE 40%
OF EVERYTHING
WE RAISE THEN
DISTRIBUTE THE
REMAINDER AMONG
YOU, DEPENDING
ON HOW HARD YOU
WORKED.



AHA-
HAHA!

YEAH,
I'M THE
NICEST
GUY EVER!

...



WE'LL GET
OUR PAYMENT
THROUGH
OTHER
METHODS...

SLICE



YOU'RE
A HERO,
AREN'T
YOU?

DON'T
BE SO
CHEAP!

IF YOU
CHEAT
US...



FLASH



WHAT'S
IT DOING
HERE?!

SLAM

GEEZ.



IT HURTS!

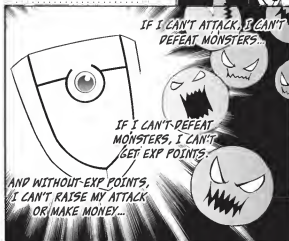
WHAT IS
THAT?!

AN ORANGE
BALLOON?!



OUCH
!!

GLATTER



SHUFFLE

DAMN... THIS IS
A BAD CYCLE.

WHO'S
THERE?

YOU SEEM TO
BE IN SOME
TROUBLE...

HEH
HEH
HEH



I CAN'T
TRUST
ANYONE
AROUND
HERE.



ARE YOU
LOOKING FOR A
COMPANION?

YOU'RE
RIGHT ON
TIME...



I WOULDN'T
SUGGEST ANYTHING
AS FICKLE AS A
"PERSON" PER SE.



HEH,
HEH,
HEH...



YOU...



WHAT I OFFER
CANNOT LIE OR
BETRAY YOU...



BITE

YOU'RE THE
SHIELD HERO,
YES? WORD
TRAVELS
FAST...



THE HERO
WITH ONLY
MONSTERS
IN HIS
PARTY...





I THINK YOU'LL
APPRECIATE
MY OFFER...

HA...

HEH,
HEH...

I LIKE YOUR
EYES... HERO.

I CAN SEE
THAT I
WAS NOT
MISTAKEN...



COME RIGHT
IN...

I GET IT.

??
HUH?



I HAVE
MANY
DEMI-HU-
MANS...

THAT'S
CORRECT.

YOU'RE
A SLAVE
TRADER.



THEY ARE
EXTREMELY
CONVENIENT.



RATTLE

RUMBLE

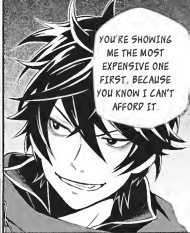




YOU FIRST
NEED TO
SHOW THEM
YOUR BEST
GOODS.

YES.

TO EARN
A GOOD
CUSTOMER...



YOU'RE SHOWING
ME THE MOST
EXPENSIVE ONE
FIRST, BECAUSE
YOU KNOW I CAN'T
AFFORD IT.



SOMETHING
CHEAP THAT
PREFERABLY
WORKS.
SOMETHING
THAT CAN
FIGHT...

SO WHAT
EXACTLY ARE
YOU LOOKING
FOR?



AND I'D
PREFER A
MAN.



FROM WHAT I
HEAR YOU ARE...

THAT WOULD WORK
WELL FOR FIGHTING,
BUT WHEN IT COMES
TO MORE AMOROUS
EXPLOITS...





BUT THEY KNOW
HOW TO FOLLOW
ORDERS.

THEY ALL HAVE
ISSUES...



THE WHOLE
PLACE SMELLS
LIKE ROT AND
DEATH...

THIS REALLY
MUST BE THE
BOTTOM OF
THE BARREL.



コホッ
コホッ
コホッ



HERO?

タ
TAP



COUGH

コホッ
コホッ
コホッ
COUGH



SHOW ME
YOUR FACE.

...





WHAT'S
YOUR
NAME?

COUGH
フ
...

HUH?

*SHE'S THE
SAME GENDER
AS THAT
WOMAN...*





EVEN IF SHE IS A
DEMI-HUMAN, HER
FACE IS GOOD
ENOUGH—JUST
LIKE A NORMAL
PERSON.



SHE'S
SKINNY, AND
SHAKING IN
FEAR...

I CAN IMAGINE
THAT I'VE MADE
THAT WOMAN INTO
MY SLAVE...



I'LL TAKE
HER.

I'VE
MADE
UP MY
MIND...

CHAPTER 3 KID'S MEAL

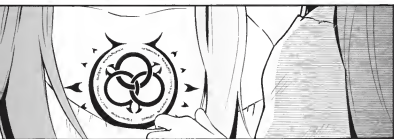


I NEED A WEAPON
THAT I CAN GET
FOR LESS THAN
6 PIECES OF
SILVER.

AND IF YOU NEED
TO CLEAR ANY
CLOTHING STOCK,
I'LL TAKE THAT
TOO.

SHIELD-
BOY...

...



NOW THIS
SLAVE IS...

...YOURS.







SHE DIDN'T
REGISTER AS A
PARTY MEMBER
AND...

THAT WOMAN...
SHE NEVER
PLANNED TO
TRAVEL WITH
ME.

DAMMIT...

GRIND

I...

SWING

UM...

3
20
19
COWAY

UM...

FROM
NOW ON...

LISTEN...

...UP

3
2
1
AH!

I ORDER YOU
TO FIGHT
MONSTERS.



IF YOU DO,
THEN I WILL
PROTECT YOU.



... HUH?



WE'RE
GOING.



SLIP

SO DON'T YOU
GO DYING
BEFORE I EARN
IT BACK.

I PAID 600P
MONEY FOR
YOU...



DASH

I...
OKAY!

WHAT ARE
YOU DOING!
C'MON!



GEEZ...

...





BUT WHY HAS
SHE BEEN
COUGHING THIS
WHOLE TIME?

ビーン
BEEP

I HEARD
SHE HAD
PANIC
ATTACKS...

COUGH
コホ
ッ

COUGH
コホ
ッ

THE QUALITY'S
NOT BAD, SO
IT MIGHT WORK
ON A COLD.

IT WILL
PROBABLY
SELL FOR A
BETTER PRICE
THAN THE
HERBS WOULD
HAVE.

COMPOUNDING SUCCESSFUL!
YOU'VE MADE NORMAL
MEDICINE!

WOAH!

AND YOU
CAN EAT
THAT FISH
NOW!

OKAY!

HUH?

ぽ
TOSS
ッ

RAPHTALIA!
HERE,
DRINK IT!

A
COLD...



I DON'T KNOW
IF IT WILL
WORK, BUT
WE MIGHT AS
WELL TRY...





... SO I GUESS
THAT'S GOOD.

AND NOW
WE KNOW IT
WORKS.



ONE OF US WILL
HAVE TO WATCH
THE FIRE, SO SHE
CAN SLEEP FIRST.

AT LEAST, I NEED
TO THINK THAT IT
WORKS...



タッ
タッ



UGH...

UGH...



GRIP
GRIP



I'LL KEEP
PRACTICING
COMPOUNDING
FOR NOW.





TO BE SOLD AS
A SLAVE AT
SUCH A YOUNG
AGE, SHE MUST
HAVE A DARK
PAST...



**BUT EVEN
STILL...**



**I NEED A
SLAVE!**



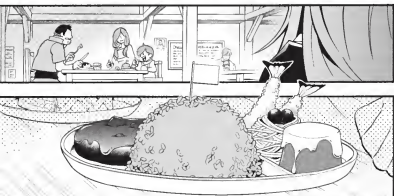
THANKS!

**ALL RIGHT,
THAT WENT
WELL.**











MY LAST
MASTER...

AND THE ONE
BEFORE HIM,
AND THE
ONE BEFORE
HIM...



WHY?

WHY?

?



THEY... GOT
MAD...

WHENEVER I
LOOKED HAPPY...



HURRY UP
AND SIT
DOWN!

THE FOOD
WILL BE
HERE
SOON.



WHAT'S THE
POINT OF A
KNIFE WITHOUT
A BLADE? EAT
UP.

LISTEN, I
WANT YOU
TO BE MY
WEAPON.



*-I GET
IT NOW*

OKAY,
RAPHTALIA.







IS THAT A
MONSTER?

FINALLY,
HERE'S ONE
THAT LOOKS
LIKE AN
ANIMAL.

BOING

AN USAPIL HAS
APPEARED!

BOOOOING!

AHH!

BITE!

SLAM





BUT IT'S STILL
AN ENEMY, AND
WE STILL HAVE
TO FIGHT IT...

IT
HURTS...

ARGH

IT'S DIFFERENT
FROM THE MONSTERS
WE FACED UP UNTIL
NOW...

IF WE
DON'T...



IF YOU
DON'T
FIGHT...

THEN I CAN'T
LOOK OUT
FOR YOU
ANYMORE.

SIZZLE

LISTEN TO ME
RAPHTALIA!

I NEED
SOMEONE
TO FIGHT
FOR ME.

IF YOU CAN'T
DO IT, I
NEED TO FIND
SOMEONE ELSE
THAT WILL.



BUT
I'M THE
SHIELD
HERO...

SOON, A
WAVE OF
DESTRUCTION
WILL VISIT
THE WORLD.



SO...

I DON'T WANT
TO SAY IT...



I CAN'T
CARRY ANY
WEAPONS...

I HAVE
TO GET
STRONGER
BEFORE IT
COMES.





BECAUSE I DON'T
WANT TO BE A HERO,
BUT I HAVE TO BE...

AND SHE
DOESN'T WANT
TO FIGHT, BUT
I HAVE TO
MAKE HER...



SHIELD...

HERO?

I HAVE TO,
JUST TO STAY
ALIVE...



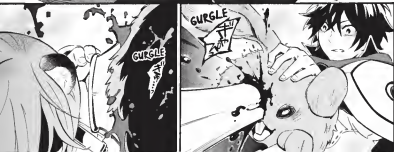
YEAH.

THAT'S
WHAT I
HAVE TO
DO.



FIGHT
AGAINST...

DESTRUCTION?



GUSH

ははは

I'LL
FIGHT...

I'M AFRAID
OF BLOOD,
BUT I...

ホタタ...

I'LL HELP
YOU, HERO...

SO
PLEASE...

DON'T
LEAVE
ME...

IF YOU DO YOUR JOB, I WON'T.

IF YOU DO YOUR JOB, I WON'T.

IT'S GREAT.

I BET THE FOOD
WON'T TASTE
GOOD TONIGHT
EITHER...

ALL I DID WAS ROAST THAT THAT THING.

THAT USAPIL.

BUT IT'S SO GOOD!

ALL I DID WAS ROAST THAT THAT THING.

THAT USAPIL.

BUT IT'S SO GOOD!

BUT IT'S
SO GOOD!

YOU'RE STILL COUGHING

THE MEDICINE MUST HAVE WORN OFF.

ソッソッソッ RUMMAGE

YOU'RE STILL COUGHING

THE MEDICINE MUST HAVE WORN OFF.

ソッソッソッ RUMMAGE



CHAPTER 4 TWO-HEADED BLACK DOG

*RAPHTALIA... DO YOU
KNOW THE LEGEND OF
THE FOUR HEROES?*

*REALLY? I
WANT TO MEET
HIM!*

*AMONG THEM, THE
SHIELD HERO WAS
THE NICEST TO US
DEMI-HUMANS.*

*BUT YOU
KNOW WHAT?*

*RAPHTALIA, THE
HEROES AREN'T
SUMMONED
WHEN THE WORLD
IS AT PEACE.*

**THE WHOLE WORLD
WILL BE COVERED...**

YOU'RE A
LUCKY GIRL...

GUSH

**IN VIOLENCE AND
DESTRUCTION!**

BECAUSE
SOON
ENOUGH...



...TALIA.

RAPHTALIA!

PULL YOURSELF
TOGETHER!

UGH!



NOPE

FWOOSH!
FATHER?!



ARE YOU
STILL
ASLEEP?

GEEZ...



ANOTHER
NIGHTMARE...

IT'S
MORNING
ALREADY...
GET UP.

UH...



HMM...

*I'VE BEEN IN
MISERY EVER
SINCE THAT
WAVE CAME...*



THAT SHOULD
BE ABOUT 20
PIECES OF
SILVER.

HUH?



IS THERE A
GOOD PLACE
AROUND HERE
TO MAKE SOME
FAST CASH?

HM...



THERE'S ORE IN
A MINE AROUND
HERE THAT'S
WORTH A LOT.

REALLY?





IT SEEMS
THAT THEY
EVEN CALLED
FOR HEROES,
BUT THEY DID
NOTHING...



THEN WHY IS
THIS TOWN
SO POOR
LOOKING?

THERE WERE
SO MANY
MONSTERS
THAT CAME
WITH THE
WAVE...



YOU
WANTED
IT,
YOU WERE
RIGHT?
LOOKING
AT IT IN
TOWN...

BUT
I...



HEY, HOW
MUCH
IS THIS
WORTH?

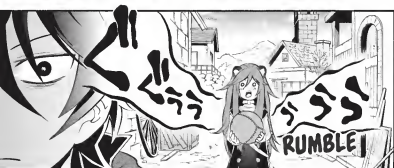
HUH?

I...



BOING
LI
?

!





STARE

too
fat...

FINE.

BUT I BET
HE'S REALLY...

HE'S NOT LIKE
HOW I PICTURED
THE SHIELD
HERO...

WE'LL GO
AFTER WE
EAT.

HE'S SCARIER...

...OKAY.



AIR
STRIKE
SHIELD!

FWAP!

UGH!

A PICKAXE,
ROPE, A
MAP...

HOOD...
THERE'S
LOTS OF
STUFF WE
CAN USE.

RUMMAGE



WHAT
IS
IT?

WE ARE
LOOKING FOR
A GOOD PLACE
TO MINE THAT
ORE...

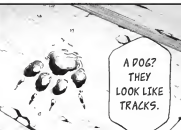
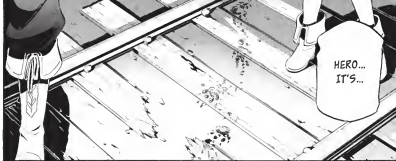
TAP TAP



WHAT
WAS...

PRETTY
COOL HUH?

NOW THEN...



I'M OKAY.
IT'S NOT
SCARY.

...OKAY

THIS
WAY.

I'M
HELPING A
HERO!

FWOOOOOOOSH

HEY!



HERE IT IS!

SHWEEEN

PICKAXE SHIELD:
EQUIP BONUS
COLLECTION I



GREAT.
AND WITH
THE SHIELD
I JUST
UNLOCKED...



LOOKS LIKE
THIS IS THE
PLACE TO
DIG.

FLASH





GRRRR

PANT

PANT

SHAKE

RAPHTALIA

...?!

IT'S WAY
BIGGER
THAN THE
TRACKS
WE SAW...

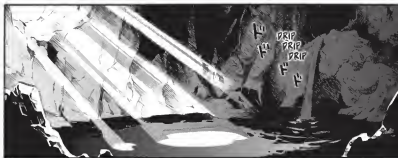
BE CAREFUL
RAPHTALIA...

A DOG
MONSTER!











WELL WE
MADE IT
OUT.



GOOD THINK
I UNLOCKED
THESE
ABILITIES...

ROPE SHIELD:
EQUIP BONUS
SKILL "AIR STRIKE SHIELD"
SPECIAL EFFECT: "ROPE"



I'M
SORRY!

....I'M
SORRY.



WHAT
HAPPENED?

huh?



I KNOW THAT
I HAVE TO
FIGHT!

BUT MY
MIND JUST
WENT...
BLANK.



IS IT THE
SAME THING
THAT MAKES
YOU CRY IN
THE NIGHT?

TELL ME.



SCRUNCH

A DEMI-HU-
MAN TOWN...



I AM FROM A
LITTLE TOWN
BY THE SEA...



BUT EVERYONE
IN MY TOWN
WAS KIND
AND LIVED IN
HARMONY.

THE REST OF
THE COUNTRY
ISN'T NICE TO
DEMI-HUMANS...

UNTIL THE DAY THE WAVE CAME...





[illegible]



CALM DOWN!
THAT'S NOT THE
MONSTER THAT
KILLED YOUR
PARENTS!!

AH!
AHHH!



WE CAN'T
SAVE YOUR
PARENTS...

BUT
YOU...

YOU CAN
SAVE
THOSE
KIDS!

RELAX.

I SWEAR
I'LL...

DASH





CRASH!

IF I DON'T DO
SOMETHING
THEN... THEN...

IT WILL BE
JUST LIKE
LAST TIME!



FLUT!

DEATH.



FWOOSH!



AAAAAHHHHHHH!

STAB!



FWAP







HUFF
はあ...
はあ...

はあ... HUFF

BUT EVEN
THOUGH IT'S
BLEEDING, IT
STILL DOESN'T
REALLY HURT...

DAMN...
I GUESS
I CAN GET
HURT AFTER
ALL...

SLAM!

OUCH!

...T...
DONT...





...JUST
WHO DO YOU
THINK I AM?

I'M THE
SHIELD
HERO!



YOU DID
GOOD,
RAPHTALIA...



I'LL ONLY DIE IF I
FAIL TO PROTECT
YOU FROM AN
ATTACKER.



HMMM?

...CAN I...







...THANK
YOU, FATHER;
MOTHER.

I'M ALL RIGHT
NOW.



BECAUSE I'M
WITH MR.
NAOFUMI.

THE DAY BEFORE BY ANEKO YUSAGI

"Master, yesterday was crazy www."

My name is Naofumi Iwatani. I'm twenty years old, and I'm just an average college student. I was just chatting with a friend from an online game. We'd had an "off party" the previous day. An "off party" is when you meet with people you know from an online game, but in real life.

I've honestly always found it a little strange—meeting online friends in the real world. We'd usually meet up and hang out for the night, and then when we saw each other again online the next time it was that much more fun. By the way, they were calling me master because we had an alliance in the game, and I was in charge of it.

"Sorry, sorry...I mean, can you blame me for letting loose a bit? If not then, when?"

"wwwwwwwwwsMaster, you're so seriouswwwwwwwww."

By the way "w" means that you're laughing online. This guy overused it a little, but he didn't mean any harm, so I didn't let it bother me.

"Master, you're the funniest! Everyone loves that about you. Your limbo dance was hilarious yo!"
Last night really had been a lot of fun.

We all met up in Tokyo, and there had even been some girls! I was pretty surprised by that. The girl characters in our alliance... I'd always assumed that they were actually guys just pretending to be girls. Whatever, who cares about what gender they are, anyway?

We went to Akihabara and ate at a maid cafe, and the girls LOVED it. They must really be guys on the inside. After that, we went to Karaoke, and I ended up doing a limbo dance there, right in the middle of it! The whole room was electric—it was weird. Why did I dance the limbo? I even moonwalked. I must have really been in a good mood.

"So where are we going today?"

We were standing in a town square talking it over. We were all going to go out and try to level up.

"Sorry, but I can only play in the morning. So let's level up somewhere with strong monsters."

"Yeah, me too. My parents are so annoying. You know a good place we could go, even for just a couple hours?"

"Hm..."

We stood in the square chatting, and I thought about where we could go. Our alliance was the third biggest on the server, and I was one of the leaders. I had a pretty good idea of where everyone wanted to go. There was a dungeon that you could only enter if you'd been victorious in a guild war—when the guilds fight one another.

Fine, if it's only for a little while...

"Ok, let's head to the guild dungeon!"

"Awesome! Master, you sure know what's up!"

"You better make it up to me later. I know you don't think you get into the guild dungeon for free."

"Master, will you go out with me then? I'm hoping it will lead to marriage. I mean this in real life."

"What are you talking about? Jokes need to be funny. Let me switch to a character who is good for that dungeon. Hold on."

I had a few characters on that server, so I chose one that would best compliment the party's strengths. A defender form... yeah, the Shield Warrior that gets to protect everyone else.

The character didn't have much of an attack rating. The damage it dealt was entirely dependent on the weapon's attack power, so it wasn't so efficient. The upside was that the defense rating was really high, so he could take a lot of damage without going down.

"I'm back! Let's get going!"

"Yeah!"

I stood at the front of the party and defended the others from attacks. That left them free to focus on bringing down the enemy. I led everyone into the dungeon, and stirred up some enemies. My party members took care of them.

"Huh? Hey, it's a boss. Can we win, Master?"

In the game there was typically a powerful boss at the end of each dungeon. Depending on the game, sometimes these bosses are so powerful that normal players have no hope of defeating them. The game we were playing just happened to be that kind of game.

"If we take it slow and stick to the strategy, we can win this one. Let's do it!"

My character took a hit from the boss.

The fight ended up taking around five minutes. The thing fell over with a satisfying crash, and it left a number of rare item drops. Then a screen appeared that calculated and displayed each party member's contributions to the battle. Huh? Looks like I was the MVP this time, and I got an extra bonus item as a result.

"You got a rare item?"

"I did. And it was an event item drop too."

"Nice! You're going to be rich!"

That item could only be procured by winning this fight, so it would sell for a huge profit. If I sold it, everyone would be happy.

"We're almost out of time. Should we head out?"

"Yeah!"

"With Master around, there's nothing we can't do."

"Yeah, master really likes using that character."

"I know, but why don't you level it up to its max level? This would be so much easier if you did!"

When you raised a character to its maximum level, it was called a counter-stop. I didn't have any characters that I had counter-stopped. So within our alliance, I really wasn't the most powerful, when you looked at it that way.

"Because I like making money in these games. All I can think about is how much this item is going to sell for!"

"There it is! Master's entrepreneurial spirit!"

It was true, I loved making money. I knew how useful money was on the server, how it would translate into success in battle. I loved items in games. I collected them all.

"Speaking of which... I'm about to go sell this. You all could only hang out in the morning right? This is good timing. I'll give you all your share of the profits the next time I see you, so look forward to that."

"Roger!"

"I hope you get good money for it YO!"

"Now we can buy that other thing!"

"We're going to be so strong!"

I switched to a merchant character and put my new item out for sale in a spot that people would be sure to see it. I could sell off some other items at the same time.

...Until a customer stopped by though, I didn't have all that much to do. I could leave the computer on and just head out for the day...

Hmmm...

I leaned back, stretched, and got out of my chair.

"I guess I shouldn't play games all day anyway. I should get out of the house."

...But where should I go?

I could have gone over to a friend's house, but I wasn't really in the mood. School was out too... Yeah, and the "off party" had been expensive, so I didn't have a lot of money to play with.

"I guess I'll go to the library and hang out for a while."

Of course I only really read manga and light novels.

I hummed a song to myself as I walked down the street towards the library.

Thinking over how I spend my free time these days, I had to admit that I'd become a pretty hardcore Otaku. Each individual day was fun, but I didn't feel like I was making full use of my time. I was a university student now, so I felt a little silly thinking it, but I still kind of wished that I could have an adventure like the protagonists of games and manga do.

It's a little cliché by now, but I really like those old stories of heroes defeating monsters with magic. The sort of story you'd have to blow the dust off. Not that something like that would ever happen to me. So, I made up my mind to read some fantasy, and I hurried on toward the library.

At the time, I had no way of knowing how foolish I was being, or the terrible horrors that lay in wait for me. I'd find out soon, but that's another story.

EXTRA STORY:
**THE THREE
HEROES**

HEY, REN!

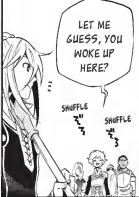






ANYWAY, FOR
ME IT WAS A
DUMP TRUNK. IT
TURNED RIGHT
INTO ME.

SMILE



LET ME
GUESS, YOU
WOKE UP
HERE?

SHUFFLE

SHUFFLE



IT CERTAINLY
FEELS LIKE A
DREAM.

HOW
SHOULD
I KNOW?

IS THIS
HEAVEN?



WE'RE HEROES,
WE'RE SAVING
THE WORLD, AND
WE DON'T EVEN
HAVE TO TRY!

SURE, THE
GIRLS DON'T
LIKE ME JUST
BECAUSE I'M A
HERO...



YEAH, BUT
WE'RE AT
LEVEL 1.

I'VE SEEN ALL
THE DUNGEONS
AND MONSTERS
BEFORE, SO I
COULD CLEAR
THIS GAME WITH
MY EYES SHUT.



I MEAN, IT'S
JUST LIKE A
GAME. DON'T
YOU THINK?



VERY NICE TO MEET YOU, I AM ANEKO YUSAGI, THE AUTHOR OF THE
ORIGINAL LIGHT NOVEL.

SEEING MY OWN WORK TURNED INTO A MANGA HAS BEEN AN AMAZING
EXPERIENCE. TO SEE IT REWORKED AS A MANGA, TO SEE THE WORLD
COME TO LIFE IN A WAY THAT IS IMPOSSIBLE WITH JUST WORDS,
HAS MADE ME VERY HAPPY INDEED.

MINAMI SEIRA SENSEI, AIYA KYU SENSEI, THE EDITORIAL TEAM,
AND EVERYONE AT MEDIA FACTORY, AND YES, TO YOU, MY READERS:

THANK YOU VERY MUCH!

PLEASE CONTINUE READING!



AUTHOR: ANEKO YUSAGI



COMMENTARY FROM THE AUTHOR AND CHARACTER DESIGNER



CONGRATULATIONS ON THE SALE OF YOUR FIRST MANGA VOLUME!

WHILE I AM ALREADY VERY FAMILIAR WITH THE STORY, IT'S
STILL VERY INTERESTING TO SEE IT COME TO LIFE AS A MANGA. THERE
ARE MANY WAYS TO TELL A STORY THAT ONLY WORK IN THE MANGA MEDI-
UM. I CAN'T WAIT TO FOLLOW THIS MANGA WITH EACH MONTH'S ISSUE.
THERE ARE SO MANY SCENES I WASN'T ABLE TO PORTRAY IN MY ILLUS-
TRATIONS, AND TO SEE THEM DONE HERE IS EVEN BETTER AND MORE
SATISFYING THAN I COULD HAVE HOPED.

I'M VERY HAPPY.

MY FAVORITE PART OF THIS VOLUME WAS SEEING RAPHTALIA SEATED,
BUT FROM BEHIND.

HER TAIL IS SO FLUFFY (LAUGHS)!



CHARACTER DESIGNER: MINAMI SEIRA



The Rising of the Shield Hero: The Manga Companion Volume 01

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